



AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 8, 2013

William E. Kirwan
Chancellor
The University of Maryland System
3300 Metzert Road
Adelphi, Maryland 20783

Dear Chancellor Kirwan:

Response to your September 24, 2013 letter

Thank you for your letter dated September 24, 2013 that was in response to the Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee's letter dated August 30, 2013. I am sorry for the delay in responding to your letter, but we wanted to analyze the funding period from 2008 to 2012 that you mentioned in your letter. Unfortunately, I did not receive the response from Dr. Wei, Dean and Director of the College of Agriculture and Natural Science that is referenced as an attachment in your letter. Your letter explains that Dr. Wei's response notes that measures were taken to ensure that the UME continues to have adequate funding to support staffing, programming and services and that the total funding for UME has remained relatively stable from 2008 to 2012. Outlined below you will see my understanding of the total funding for UME from 2008 to 2014.

	State		County		Federal		Total	
Fiscal YR	%	Dollars	%	Dollars	%	Dollars	%	Dollars
2008	0.37	340,512	0.44	408,215	0.19	175,560	1.00	924,287
2009	0.39	322,563	0.49	403,067	0.11	91,297	1.00	816,927
2010	0.41	300,933	0.46	333,072	0.13	91,297	1.00	725,302
2011	0.45	293,893	0.41	272,758	0.14	91,297	1.00	657,948
2012	0.45	292,191	0.41	271,241	0.14	91,297	1.00	654,729
2013	0.40	224,490	0.48	271,241	0.12	69,928	1.00	565,659
2014	0.40	230,710	0.48	278,792	0.12	69,928	1.00	579,430

The total funding for UME has significantly decreased 37 percent from 2008 to 2014. The contributions from the County Government as outlined above does not include the County funding totaling \$82,885 that is provided for the annual lease for office space that UM-Extension staff currently occupies. The County is committed to remain a strong funding partner with Extension as we collectively address the future needs for staff and program functions.

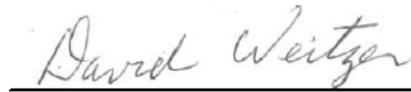
I would be interested in receiving a copy of the Dean's response to the August 30, letter from the AAC to better understand where the Dean is coming from. We want to help Extension in their efforts in having boots on the ground to fulfill Extension's mission and this will help to provide the needed technical assistance to our farmers. The AAC has advocated since 2011 the need for an Agronomy Educator position that has been vacant since July 2010 when Doug Tregoning retired.

If you access the link below you will find the Farming at Metro's Edge-FAME final report that was released on September 16, 2013. This FAME report advocates the need for more resources to UM-Extension and the AAC is working closely with the County Government to explore ways to accomplish this recommendation. This recommendation is mentioned numerous times from the round table discussions during the FAME conference.

http://mocoalliance.org/wp-content/upload/32121_Text_Farming_L.pdf

We would gladly like to meet with you to work closely with the University of Maryland-Extension to expand the partnership with Montgomery County Government and identify ways to achieve the recommendations of the FAME conference report. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



David Weitzer, Chairman

CC: Dr. Wei, Dean and Director of the College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences